Conversion of Metre Gauge Lines

3396. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to covert metre-gauge lines into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to untilise the metre-gauge line engines and the locomotive workshops; and

(c) the schemes being chalked out by the Government to be deploy the workers engaged therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It is proposed to convert 6000 Km of Metre Gauge out of 23,600 km of Metre Gauge track to Broad Gauge in the VIII Plan.

(b) Steam locomotives on Metre Gauge will be phased out progressively. Diesel locomotives will be utilised to run services on the balance Metre Gauge system. The workload of the workshops will be reviewed .

(c) Staff will be suitable re-deployed, if required.

Import of Wheat

3397. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent a team abroad to assess the prospects of import of wheat;

(b) if so, the number of members of the said team, the countries visited and the duration of the stay abroad; and

(c) the expenditure incurred including the foreign exchange involved in the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (b). A statement giving the required information is attached.